

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 2, 4-7, and 14-18 have been amended and claims 1 and 13 have been canceled. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4-10, 12, and 14-18 are pending and under consideration. Claims 8-10 and 12 have been allowed and claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 14, 15, 17 and 18 have been indicated as including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, with the remaining claims 5 and 16 having been amended to depend from claims 2 and 14, respectively, and with claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 14, 15, 17 and 18 having been amended into independent form, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in allowable condition.

Thus, In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 12/22/04

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